with the use of the drug. The matter was then examined in consultation with experts in India and it was opined by the experts that lactic acidosis reported in the West is not common in Indian Population and the drug was effective as an oral anti-diabetic drug. The drug remained available in Spain, Italy, Mexico and some other parts of Europe and continued to be marketed in India also.

Subsequently, the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) on reconsideration of the matter opined that as large number of oral drugs for treatment of diabetes are now available in the country, the continued marketing of Phenformin may be stopped.

The drug Phenformin has, therefore, been prohibited for manufacture and sale in the country with effect from 1 st October, 2003 *vide* Gazette Notification GSR 780 (E) dated 01.10.2003.

New Medical Course

573. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to introduce a three year medical course to build up a special cadre of doctors capable and willing to serve in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the view points of the various State Governments have been elicited with regard thereto and if so, their reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Appointment of Principal at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College

574. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to appoint a full time regular Principal at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Delhi;

(b) whether the Principal would be from teaching sub-cadre of CHS; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?